

# Drug Research Brief

## **New Commitments TDOC**

**October 2002**

**Compiled and prepared by:**

**Sara J. Conte, Analyst    TDOC Planning & Research**

- **A *New Commitment* is defined as any person who is beginning his/her first incarceration to TDOC (or jail if locally sentenced). Note: This would include a first incarceration for all persons after an expired sentence or a violation of their probation resulting in a new felony charge.**
- **Only offenders having drug related *primary* offenses were included in this report.**

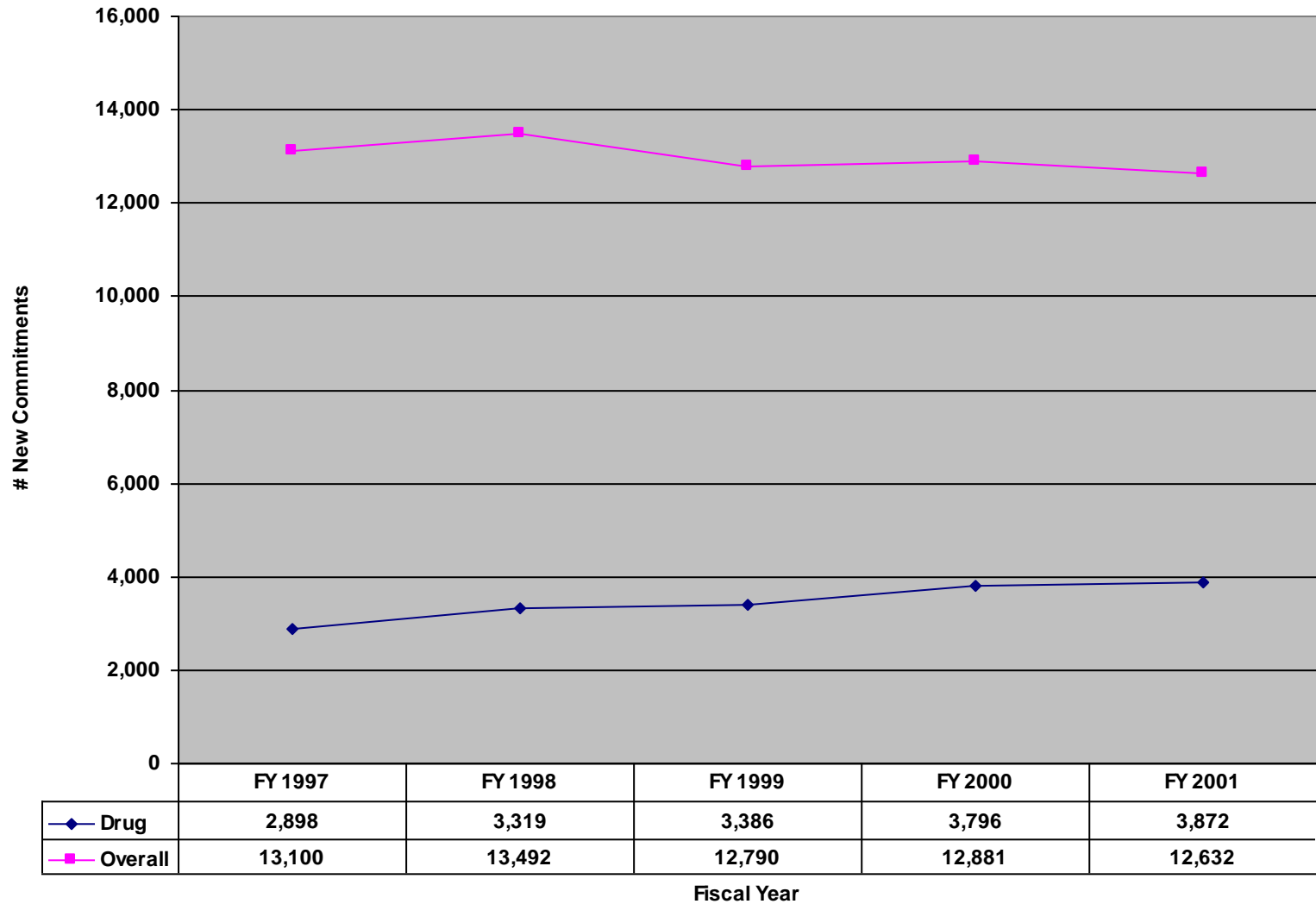
# **New Commitments - Overview**

- During FY 2001, drug commitments accounted for 30.7% of all new admissions. In comparison, during FY 1997, drug commitments only made up 22.1% of all new admissions.

- From FY 1997 through FY 2001, the number of drug commitments increased by 974 or 33.6%. During that same period, overall commitments *decreased* by 368 or 2.8%.

- **Since FY 1987, the number of drug commitments has increased 498.5% while the number of overall commitments has increased 273.2%.**
- **In FY 2001, there were 3,872 drug commitments – an increase of 80.9% - (1,731) from FY 1991 (2,141). In contrast, the number of overall commitments during the same period increased by 37.3% (3,433).**

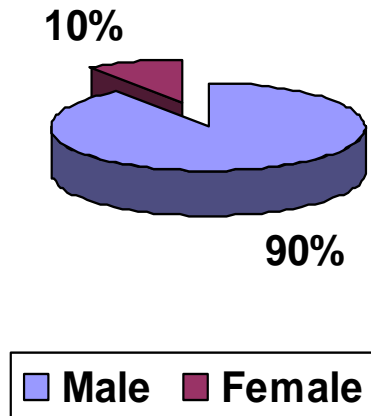
# Growth of New Commitments: FY 1997 - FY 2001



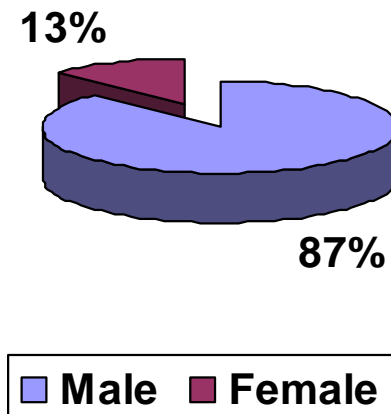
# Commitments by Gender

- In FY 1997, 90% of the overall commitments were male and 10% were female. However, when drug commitments are broken out, females made up only a slightly higher percentage with 13% versus 87% for the males.

Commitments by Gender, FY 1997



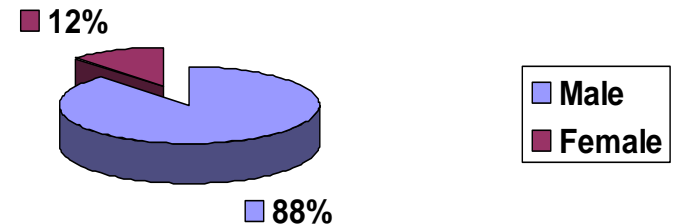
Drug Commitments by Gender, FY 1997



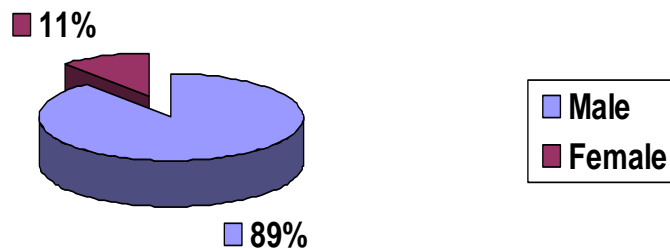


- The male/female breakdown of new drug commitments in FY 2001 was relatively proportional to that of the overall commitments.

Drug Commitments by Gender, FY 2001



Commitments by Gender, FY 2001

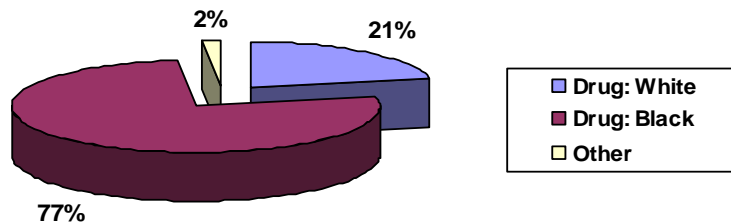


- In FY 2001, females comprised 12% of the new drug commitments and 11% of commitments overall.
- From FY 1997 to FY 2001, there was very little shifting with respect to the gender makeup of either group.

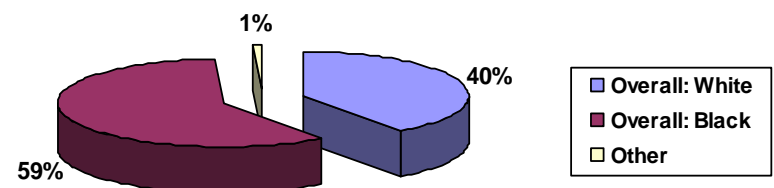
# Commitments by Race

- When new commitments are broken down into racial groups (White, Black & Other) for FY 1997, 77% of the drug commitments were Black, 21% were White and only 2% were classified as Other. In comparison, overall commitments were slightly more balanced with 59% Black, 40% White and 1% Other.

Drug Commitments: FY 1997 (Total = 2,898)

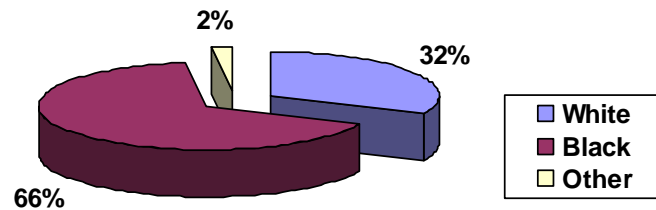


Overall Commitments: FY 1997 (Total=13,100)

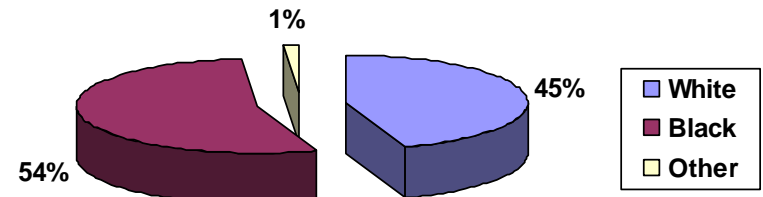


- During FY 2001, although the number of overall commitments was even more racially balanced with 54%Black and 45%White, the number of drug commitments was still two thirds (66%) Black and approximately one third (32%) White.

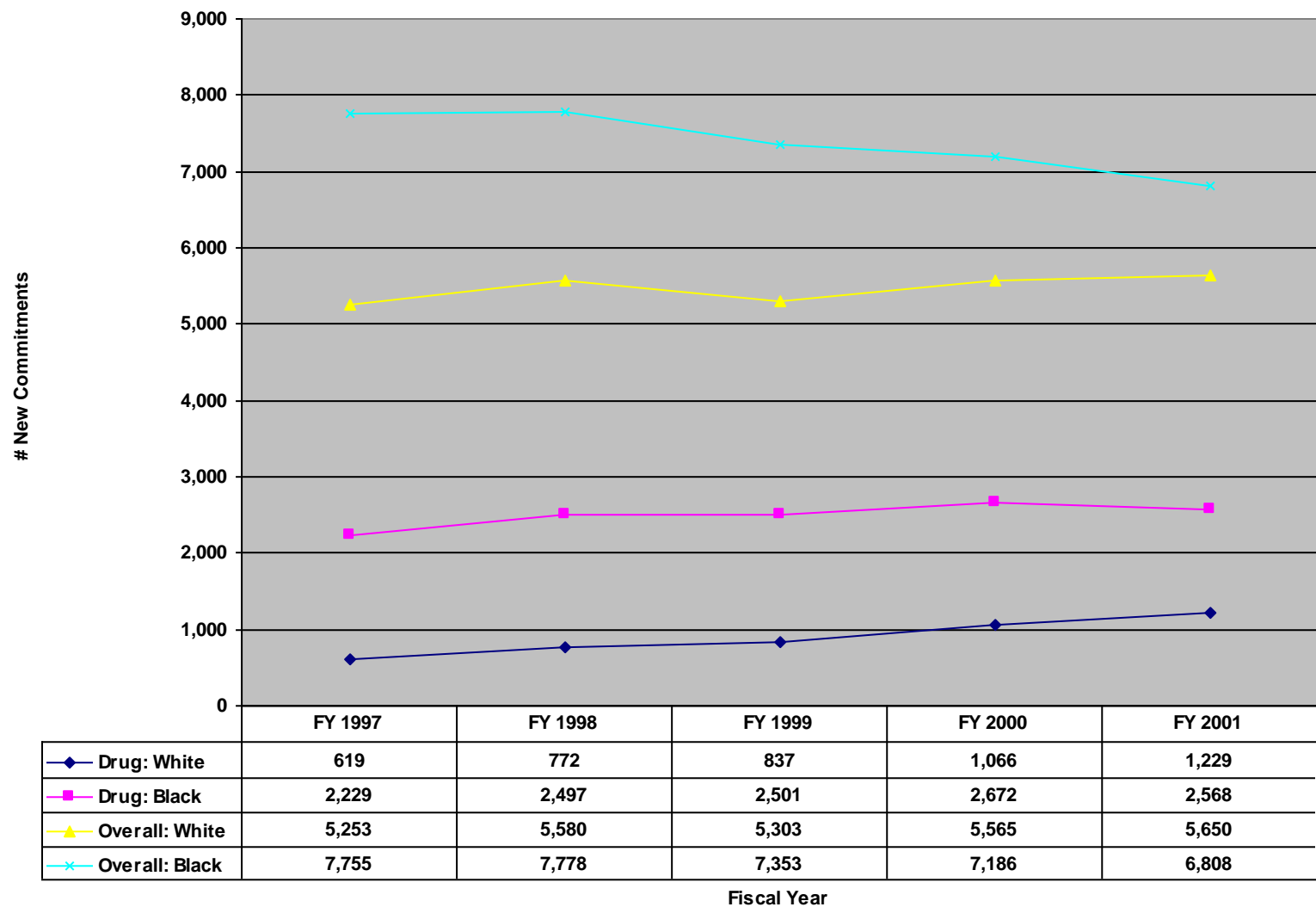
Drug Commitments: FY 2001 (Total=3,872)



Overall Commitments: FY 2001 (Total=12,362)



# Growth of New Commitments by Race, FY 1997-FY 2001



- The number of Black drug commitments only increased 15.2% during the period from FY 1997 (2,229) to FY 2001 (2,568), while the number of White drug commitments increased a full 98.5% from 619 to 1,229.
- In comparison, the number of Black commitments overall actually *decreased* 12.21% during the same period (7,755 to 6,808). The overall number of White commitments slightly increased by 7.6% from 5,253 to 5,650.

# Commitments: Additional Data

# Drug Commitments by County of Conviction

		FY 2001		FY 1987	
County	Davidson	836	21.6%	85	13.1%
	Hamilton	94	2.4%	71	11.0%
	Knox	145	3.7%	38	5.9%
	Shelby	963	24.9%	176	27.2%
	Other	1,834	47.4%	277	42.8%
Total		3,872		647	

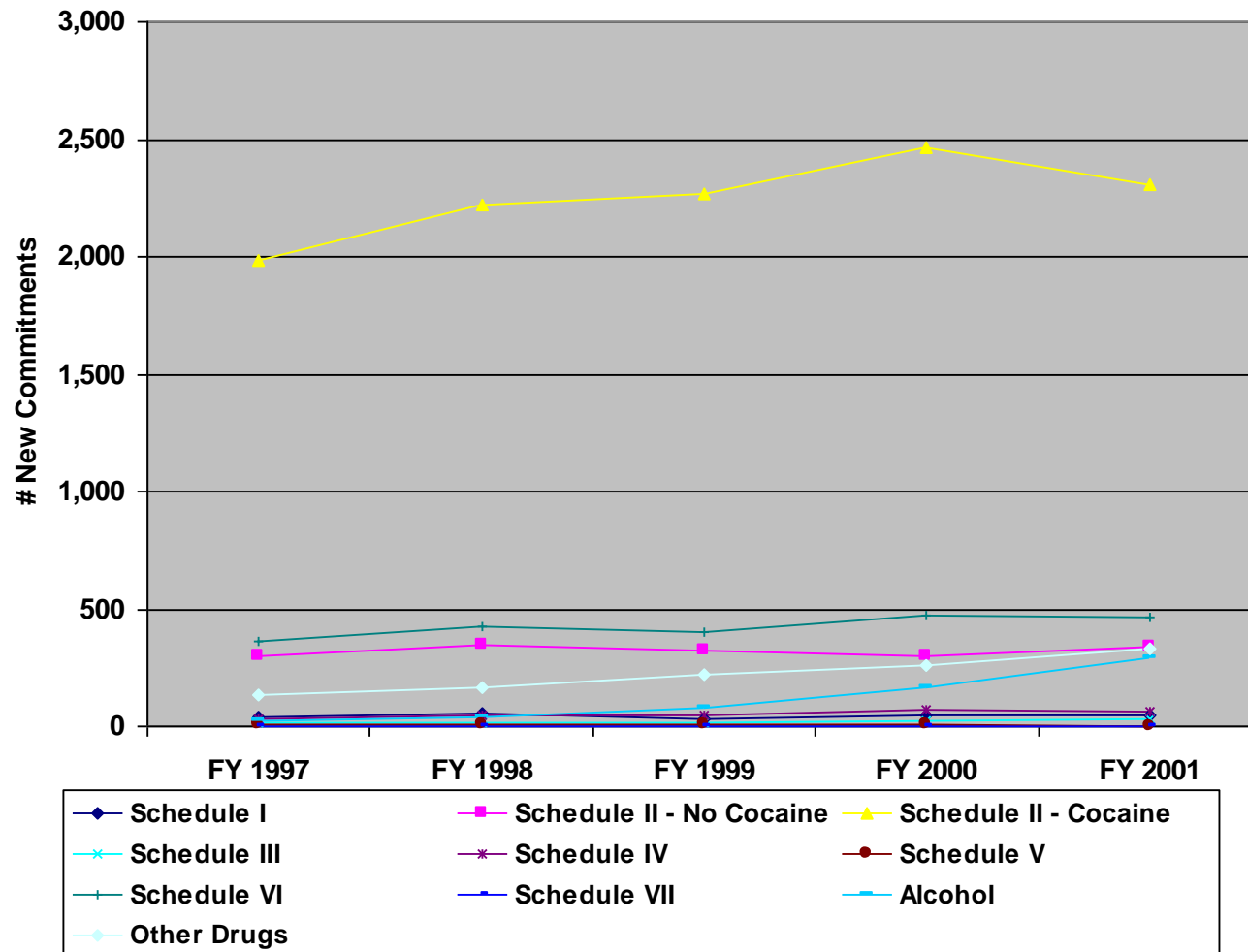
- The number of drug commitments in Davidson County increased 883.5% from FY 1987 to FY 2001, while the number of statewide drug commitments increased 498.5%. In comparison, drug commitments increased 447.2% in Shelby County during the same period.
- However, Davidson County still only represented 21.6% of all drug commitments for FY 2001, whereas Shelby County comprised 24.9% of drug commitments.
- The category “other” represented the highest percentage of drug convictions with 47.4% in FY 2001, but it is important to note that this number represented the total drug commitments from 89 other counties.



# Type of Drug Offense

- Although commitments with a Schedule II Cocaine conviction remained the dominant type of drug offense in FY 2001 making up a full 59% of the drug commitments, they have only seen a 16.3% increase since FY 1997.
- In contrast, new commitments with Schedule III, Schedule IV, Alcohol and other drug offenses have shown tremendous increases of 72.2%, 100%, 1112.5%, and 146.3%, respectively. While the actual numbers are still small in comparison to the total Schedule II Commitments, these increases might illustrate a new trend in drug offenses.

# Commitments by Drug Offense, FY 1997 - FY 2001



# Summary

- From FY 1997 through FY 2001, TDOC saw a 33.6% increase in the number of drug commitments while the number of overall commitments actually *decreased* by 2.8%.
- Even though the number of Black drug commitments only increased 15.2% since FY 1997 while the number of White drug commitments increased a full 98.5%, two thirds of the drug commitments in FY 2001 were Black while only one third was White. In comparison, 54% of the overall commitments in FY 2001 were Black while 45% were White. Although this disparity decreased in the past five years, the influx of new drug offenders was still predominantly comprised of black offenders.
- Gender breakdowns of drug commitments have stayed fairly stable over time and have remained consistent with the breakdown of the overall commitments.
- Schedule II Cocaine remains the dominant type of offense for new drug commitments. However, commitments with other types of drug offenses such as Schedule III, Schedule IV, and Alcohol are growing at a higher rate than those with Schedule II Cocaine offenses.

# **Coming Attractions.....**

**Drug Offenders & Stock Population:  
*A Growing* Problem**